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Centered by our myriad and shared spiritual journeys toward God, we strengthen each other to practice love in action with hand and heart. We strive to be a nurturing center dedicated to demonstrating God's love to one another, our community and the world.

Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church, a community where you belong. Whether you're with us for the first or thousandth time, whether you're in doubt or are devout, no matter who you are, what experience you bring, or what questions you have, you are welcome here. God welcomes us all.

Hearing assistance devices are available from the sound booth.

**Bold** signifies congregation participation.

\*Rising as able

#### THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

#### **Prelude**

The Heart of Worship Matt Redman, arr. Mark Hayes Mallory Bernstein, piano

Welcome

Louise Westfall

### **Prayer of Appreciation for Volunteers Who Serve:**

God our great provider, thank you for the volunteers you provide for the work entrusted to us. You call precisely the right people to the right area of service. You bring together groups who hold your love in common, yet make a unique contribution to the work. Thank you for calling and gifting volunteers, who bring your children together to perform beautiful acts of service. Help us to recognize in each of them evidence of your grand redemptive plan. Amen.

[Written by a person served by the ministry of La Puente]

#### **Gathering Music**



#### Call to Worship

Molly Brown

Blessed are those who serve the poor. . .

They will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who share the wealth . . .

They will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who work for good . . .

They will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who open doors . . .

They will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who break down walls . . .

They will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who challenge hate . . .

They will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who live their faith . . .

They will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who speak the truth . . .

They will be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who show Christ's love . . .

They will be called the children of God.

#### \*Hymn 766

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

#### **Sharing Our Stories 1**

La Puente Cooper and Lisa Daniel, Jess Nydam
Rainbow Alley Edith Zemanick
Guns2Gardens Cheryl Fleetwood

#### The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

[Please share signs of peace with one another]

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine! x3 Let it shine, let it shine!

#### **Time With Younger Church**

Jon Dreux

Children may gather at the Table to learn about building a house and making a home. [Carpenters' Helpers/Habitat for Humanity]

These are the stories of God's people for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

#### Response

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. They are promise and delight, they are precious in God's sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world!

#### **Sharing Our Stories 2**

Mission to Migrants Rob and Celeste Habiger

Advent Opportunities with Metro Caring and Heartbeat Denver Working Men's Shelter

Molly Brown

#### **Scripture Reading**

Luke 8:1-3

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

#### Sermon

Out of Our Resources

Louise Westfall

#### **Moments for Silence**

#### Offering of Gifts and 2024 Pledges

Witness

With Gratitude

Mark Williams

#### Offering of Tithes, Gifts and Pledges

Green Prayer Request Cards and Welcome Cards are located in the pew racks. Please put them and your offering in the collection plates as they are passed.

To give via sms, please text "centraldenver" (no spaces) to 73256. You will be asked to enter your credit card info. Thank you for your gifts.

#### Offertory

It Is Well With My Soul

Philip P. Bliss arr C. Courtney Leslie Soich, mezzo soprano Mallory Bernstein, piano

[Enjoy photographs and images from Central's mission projects and experiences during 2023.]

#### \*Response Hymn 643

Now Thank We All Our God

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

O God, we gather to thank you for: the easy conversation between old friends, the quick smile of a child, the warm look of hello from across the room, the caring phone call about our illness, the cards sent which say, "Just thinking of you", the hymn book passed along, the little things that say we matter. All this, O God, you planned in your compassion. Your church is special to us. Within it are people with so many different gifts.

Thank you, God, for providing us with this place of belonging. In response we bring our own gifts to use in your Church, and as we do, we want to say how grateful we are to you that you have given us such friends. Out of gratitude we give, for you have given us so much. Amen.

[from the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand at a worship service attended by Mark and Leslie Williams.]

#### **Prayers of the Church**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** 

God of compassion, We offer these prayers to you.

#### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

#### \*Hymn 694

Great God of Every Blessing

#### \*Charge and Blessing

#### Postlude

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love
Peter Scholtes, arr. Mark Hayes
Mallory Bernstein, piano

**TODAY:** Please join us immediately following worship for lunch with Heartbeat Denver Shelter residents in the narthex lobby.

## FAITH FORMATION CLASSES Celtic Spirituality led by Rev. Evan Amo and Cheryl Fleetwood

**TODAY: Exploring the Celtic Way for today**No preparation is required, but John Philip Newell's book, *Listening for the Heartbeat of God*, is available for a \$5 donation in the Narthex as supplemental reading. West Classroom following worship.

#### **SAVE THE DATE**

Save the date for Central's Christmas Party!
Everyone is welcome Sunday afternoon, December 10,
from 4-7 pm at the home of David and Lisa Daniel.
Look for an Evite in your email soon.



We are glad to be worshiping with you today

and hope you will explore the many opportunities for learning, serving, and community building at Central Presbyterian Church.

Free Sunday Parking | 8:00am - 1:30pm Key Park is located across the street, with its main entrance on 16th Avenue.

**Wells Fargo Center Parking Garage.** You must get a parking validation ticket from an usher. When exiting garage insert your entry ticket into the exit column followed by the parking validation ticket.

**Elderly and differently-abled individuals** may park in the three staff parking spaces and the three handicapped parking spaces in front of the church.

#### **Online Giving**

Set up one-time or automatic giving for your offerings. www.centraldenver.com/give

**Children in Worship** 

Central values having all generations worshiping together! All children are welcome in the worship space each and every Sunday. We enjoy and expect the joyful noises of children as they are a vibrant part of our faith community.

- Nursery Care for infants and toddlers is available from 9:30-11:45am
- Worship activity bags are available from our staff in the front east box seats in the Sanctuary.
   Children may remain in that area throughout the service, where staff will be present.

Contact Molly Brown at molly@centraldenver.com with questions or to be added to the Children, Youth and Families mailing list (weekly emails with events and more).

Join Us for Worship Online

For those who prefer to worship online or who are unable to join us in person, we continue to livestream our morning worship service at 10:30am: centraldenver.com/livestream. Those without internet access are invited to listen to the morning service via phone by calling 1.339.207.6673 at the time of the service.

#### **Weekly Email Newsletter**

The best way to stay informed about activities at Central is to subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, which goes out every Thursday at 6:30 pm. Sign up at: www.centraldenver.com/contact

The deadline for copy for the bulletin and the eVoice is 10am on Tuesday morning. Any submissions after this deadline will be featured in the following week's publication.



#### Ways to Connect Serendipity Women's Group

Starting in January 2024, Serendipity will meet on the second Thursday of month rather than the fourth. The change responds to more households having one car, as well as conflicts with the fourth Thursday. Thanks to all who hosted and attended this year. A 2024 schedule will be available soon, along with the invitation to host or co-host one of our informal gatherings open to all women. Contact Carol Farnsworth at <a href="mailto:carol.farnsworth@gmail.com">carol.farnsworth@gmail.com</a> or 720.838.5901.

**Men's Night Out** 

Our next gathering will be December 7th at 6:30pm at Bill Jones's house. We are planning on 2 kinds of chili. Please let us know if you can bring a dish to complement; appetizer, salad, chips, dessert, etc. Please email Bill for address: wjones6253@gmail.com

#### Theology on Tap Thursdays, 7:00pm

We get together at local breweries to enjoy fellowship and discuss questions of faith. Please contact Pastor Louise to be added to the email list for locations.

#### **Central Connections**

Gatherings for couples and singles primarily in their 20's and 30's seeking connections in the city. Contact Pastor Louise to be added to the email list.

#### Women's Bible Study 2nd Thursdays, 10:00am Via Zoom

All women are welcome. Please visit centraldenver.com for access to the Zoom Link.

#### **Staff Directory**

Pastor, Louise Westfall

louise@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6281

**Director of Mission & Faith Formation, Molly Brown** molly@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6285

Music Director & Church Administrator, Charis Smith charis@centraldenver.com | 303.567.6283

Facilities Manager, Jon Dreux jon@centraldenver.com

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